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*The Evolution of States.* By J. M. ROBERTSON. New York: Putnam, 1913. 8vo, pp. 487. \$2.50.

The viewpoint of this book may be understood from the author's own words, contained in his introductory chapter (pp. 2-3): "What is most wanted in history is sociological truth rooted in psychology and biology. The evil of theoretical extremes is not so much their falsehood as their irrelevance. If we are to instruct each other in conduct, it must be in terms of sympathies and antipathies; and if we are to profit by a study of politicians who are among the most generally typical of men, and of politics which is the expression of so much life, we must go about it as humanists and not as fatalists." In a word he asks students and writers of history to use their powers of observation and application more and their imagination less. The growing recognition of this position he points out in the Preface (p. viii): "Alike as to ancient and modern history the effort of scholars is now more and more toward comprehension of historic causation in terms of determining conditions, the economic above all."

In applying his principles, the critic successively considers the growth and decay of the Roman and Greek politics, the case of the Italian republic, the lesser European states, among which he includes the Scandinavian peoples, the Hansa, Holland, Switzerland, and Portugal, concluding his study with an analysis of English history down to the constitutional period.

He taboos as meaningless the personification of states so often resorted to. Imperialism as a national policy, glorified by some, to him has only destruction as a consequence. The tendency to attribute certain higher racial characteristics to the Germanic stocks, especially the Anglo-Saxon, as compared with other peoples, he deprecates as a mania. Throughout, the predominating influence of economic interests is emphasized.

It might be inferred from this brief survey that the book is mainly destructive. On the contrary, it presents a constructive thesis of historic causation which is amply substantiated with quotations and exact reference.

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*The Family and Social Work.* By EDWARD T. DEVINE. New York: Association Press, 1912. 12mo, pp. 163. 60 cents.

This little book is a strong plea for effective social work organized and directed with a view to the improvement and elevation of the institution of the family. "All kinds of social work," we are told, "may be described in terms of family welfare. All kinds of anti-social influences may be measured by their untoward effects on family welfare" (p. 31). The duty of the social worker is to rehabilitate and redeem, not to eliminate. Though by no means denying the principles of eugenics, the author takes a decided stand against the radical adherents of this philosophy on the ground that "what is wrong